In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

- 1 -21 (cancelled).
- 22 (new). A multi-analyte assay for determining the presence or absence of analytes in a sample, wherein said assay comprises the following steps:
- (a) attaching a plurality of capture reagents to a solid support wherein the capture reagents have physical, chemical, and/or antigenic properties in common;
 - (b) contacting a test sample with the capture reagents;
- (c) incubating the sample and the capture reagents for a time and under conditions to allow the formation of complexes between the capture reagents and analytes;
 - (d) incubating said complexes with a detection reagent;
- (e) measuring the reaction of the sample with each capture reagent and use, as a negative control value, of the lowest of the measured reactions or an average of low reactions; and
- (f) evaluating the results of the reaction taking into consideration the negative control value determined in part (e), to determine the presence or absence of the analytes.
- 23 (new). The method, according to claim 22, wherein the analytes are selected from the group consisting of antibodies and antigens.
- 24 (new). The method, according to claim 22, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of serum, tissue and urine.
- 25 (new). The method, according to claim 22, wherein the solid support is selected from the group consisting of beads, wells, membranes and microarrays.

- 26 (new). The assay, according to claim 22, further comprising the step of subtracting from the negative control value a background value representing the reaction between a detection molecule and at least one capture reagent attached to the solid support.
- 27 (new). A multi-analyte assay for determining the presence or absence of analytes in a sample, wherein said assay comprises the following steps:
- (a) mixing a sample with a plurality of capture reagents wherein the capture reagents have physical, chemical, and/or antigenic properties in common;
 - (b) measuring the reactivity of the sample with each capture reagent;
 - (c) identifying the least reactive capture reagent as a negative control and;
- (d) comparing the reactivity of the sample toward the capture reagents to the sample-specific negative control as determined in step (c) in order to determine the presence or absence of the analytes.
- 28 (new). The assay, according to claim 27, wherein the analytes are selected from the group consisting of antibodies and antigens.
- 29 (new). The assay, according to claim 27, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of scrum, tissue and urine.
- 30 (new). The assay, according to claim 27, wherein the capture reagent is attached to a solid support selected from the group consisting of beads, wells, membranes and microarrays.
- 31 (new). The assay, according to claim 27, further comprising the step of subtracting from the negative control value a background value representing the reaction between a detection molecule and at least one capture reacent attached to the solid support.